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## Historians in Action: How and Why We Reclaim an Armenian Feminist Past

### Melissa Bilal

College of Humanities & Social  
Sciences, American University  
of Armenia

Tuesday  
April 30, 2019  
7:00 pm

Knight Auditorium, Spurlock Museum  
600 South Gregory, Urbana  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



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Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies

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Professor Bilal will first provide an overall introduction to *Feminism in Armenian: An Interpretive Anthology and Digital Archive*, a collaborative project with Lerna Ekmekçioğlu (MIT) that aims to end the ever-present invisibility of activist women in Armenian historiography and collective memory. She will then focus on one of the authors featured

in this project, namely Yelbis Gesaratsian (1830 – ?) editor of the first Armenian women’s journal in the Ottoman Empire. Drawing on Gesaratsian’s writings, Professor Bilal will discuss the interrelatedness of discourses on gender, sexuality, body, emotion, culture, history, nation, modernity, land, and music in the nineteenth-century Armenian intellectual narratives.



For background information, consult  
[cas.illinois.edu](http://cas.illinois.edu) or call 217-333-6729.